



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - January 13, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are returning to ***northern California and the Northwest***, where soil moisture levels and snow packs are adequate. Dry conditions persist elsewhere in the ***West***, where drought concerns include stressed rangelands, low reservoir levels, and meager mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, sharply colder weather is increasing stress on livestock in the ***eastern Dakotas***, where this morning's low temperatures fell near or below 0 degrees F. In contrast, mild weather continues on the ***High Plains***, maintaining generally favorable conditions for overwintering wheat. However, concerns about winter wheat persist from ***Montana to the central High Plains*** due to long-term drought and the crop's exposure to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow showers are confined to areas downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, dry weather and frozen soils favor off-season fieldwork, despite a recent turn toward sharply colder weather. In the ***upper Mississippi Valley***, this morning's temperatures fell near or below 0 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers linger from the ***lower Mississippi Valley to Florida***, but dry weather is overspreading the remainder of the region. However, cool conditions are slowing evaporation rates from still-soggy fields.

Outlook: Cold, mostly dry weather will prevail ***east of the Rockies***, although periods of snow are possible in the ***upper Midwest, Great Lakes States, and Northeast***. Meanwhile, a series of Pacific storm systems will bring occasional rain and snow to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***. Elsewhere, mostly dry weather will prevail across the ***southern half of the nation***, although showers will linger in ***southern Florida***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 18-22 calls for drier-than-normal weather across much of the Nation, with no large-scale areas of wetter-than-normal conditions expected. Meanwhile, below-normal temperatures will persist ***east of the Mississippi River***, but above-normal temperatures are likely from the ***High Plains westward to the Pacific Coast***.

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